



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

October 23, 2009

Mr. Marlyn W. Schafer
Regulatory Branch
Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers
Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Re: 2009-1205

Dear Mr. Schafer:

Reference is made to the application by the City of Streator for a Department of the Army permit authorizing the clearing, grading and stabilization of a section of streambank along the Vermilion River. The plans call for excavation of debris from within the river channel, clearing of existing woody vegetation from the streambank, construction of a gabion wall, and regrading of the adjacent bank slope with fill material placed behind the wall. The project is located in the southeast quarter of Section 26, Township 31 North, Range 3 East in Streator, LaSalle County, Illinois.

As is indicated in your letter of October 8, 2009 the Vermilion River in the project area is listed as a Critical Resource Water. It is an identified Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) site and documented habitat for the state threatened river redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*). Additionally, the state endangered greater redhorse (*Moxostoma valenciennesi*) has been reported at several locations upstream.

Although the IDNR Office of Realty and Environmental Planning is not opposed to the proposed construction, we ask that care be taken to avoid and/or mitigate some of its foreseeable environmental impacts. To minimize construction-related disturbances to fish, freshwater mussels and other aquatic organisms, we ask that no heavy equipment be operated within the stream channel. Should that be infeasible, we suggest as an alternative that no construction activity be allowed in the wetted portion of the channel between March 15 and June 1, the approximate spawning period for the two redhorse species and several sport fishes. We also recommend that the bank slope be reforested upon completion of the project to restore the area as much as possible to its existing condition.

Department biologists are available to discuss these recommendations further at your convenience and that of the applicant. Please contact me at 217-785-4863 if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Schanzle
Permit Program Manager
Office of Realty and Environmental Planning

RWS:rs

cc: City of Streator (Schmitt), IDNR/OWR (Giesing), IEPA (Yurdin), USFWS (Millar), USEPA (Pierard)

This recommendation regarding the issuance/denial of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit by the IDNR, Office of Realty and Environmental Planning does not supersede permit decisions made by the IDNR, Office of Water Resources under the Illinois Rivers, Lakes and Streams Act.